

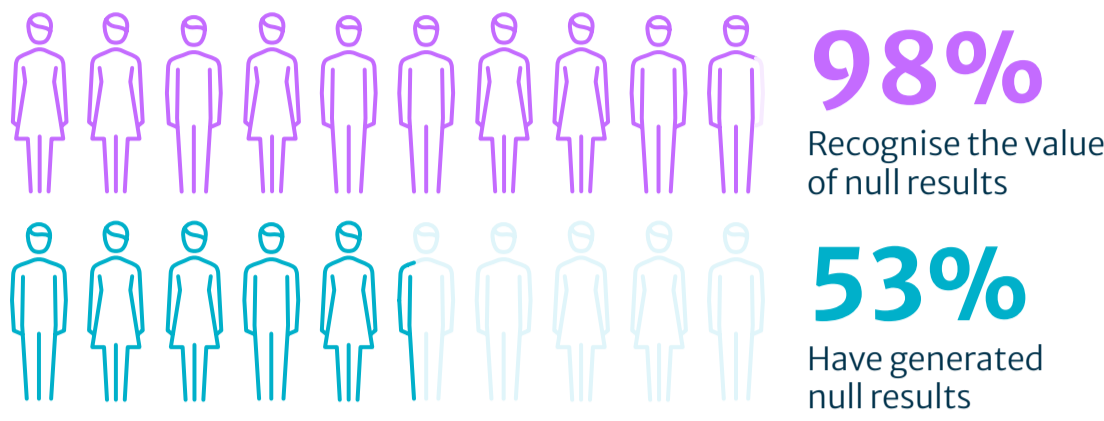
The value of publishing null results

Insights from 11,000 researchers on negative or inconclusive results

Springer Nature has published the results of a global survey asking researchers across the globe to share their perceptions and attitudes to null results and experiences of sharing them.

Null results are prevalent and valued

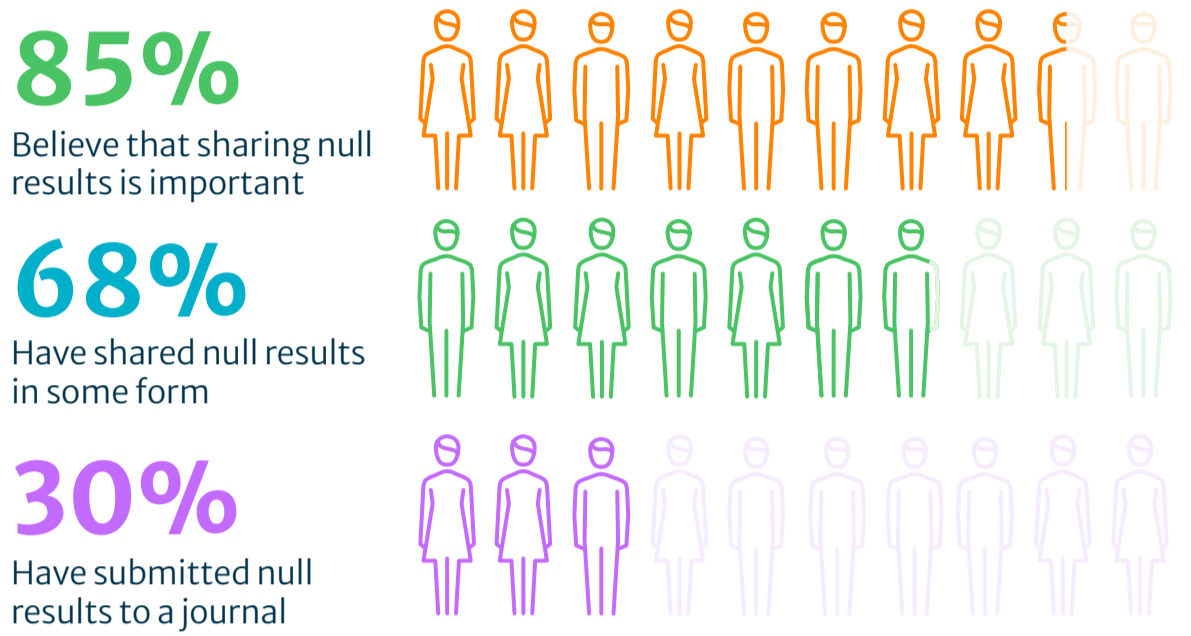
Null results, also known as 'negative results' or 'inconclusive results', are outcomes that do not confirm the hypothesis of a research project.



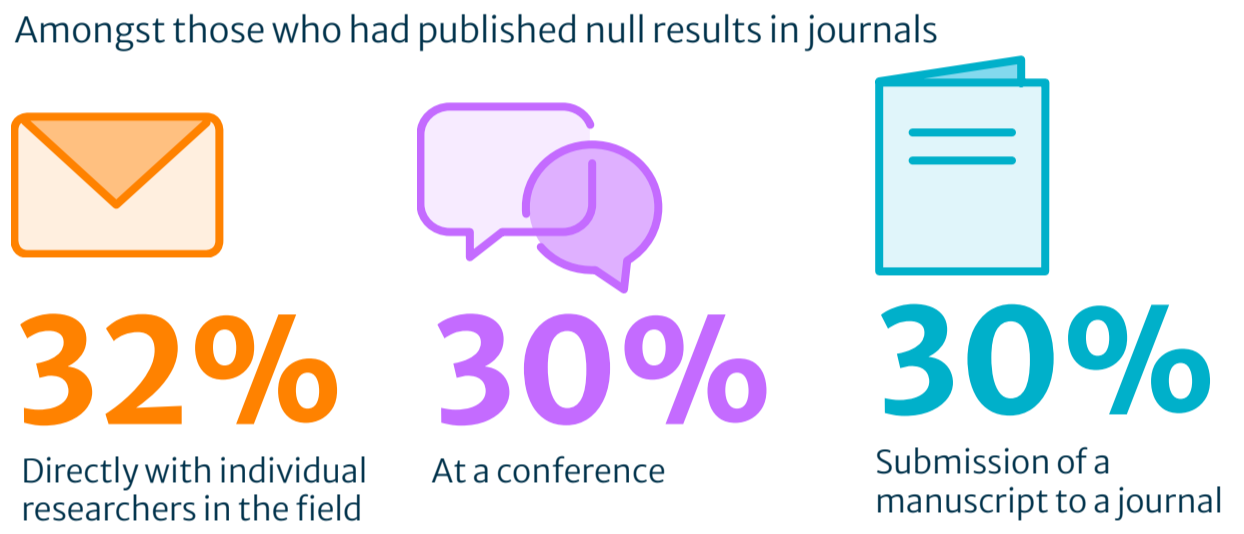
“Researchers need access to both ‘positive’ and ‘negative’ results to fully understand a research topic. Yet the scientific community appears to have created a research environment where researchers either feel little point in writing up null results and/or struggle to publish such findings. This means that, due to a lack of awareness, many researchers are wasting time, effort, and funding by duplicating research that is later proven to be negative as well as not sharing data that may challenge published findings.”

Ritu Dhand
Chief Scientific Officer,
Springer Nature

There is a gap between intent and action



How are null results being shared?

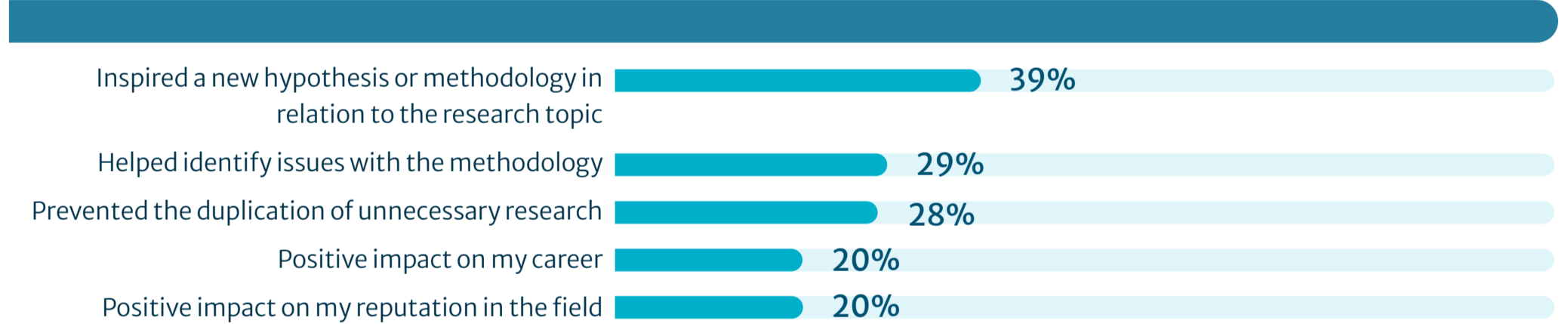


Experiences of publishing null results were mostly positive, but risks remain

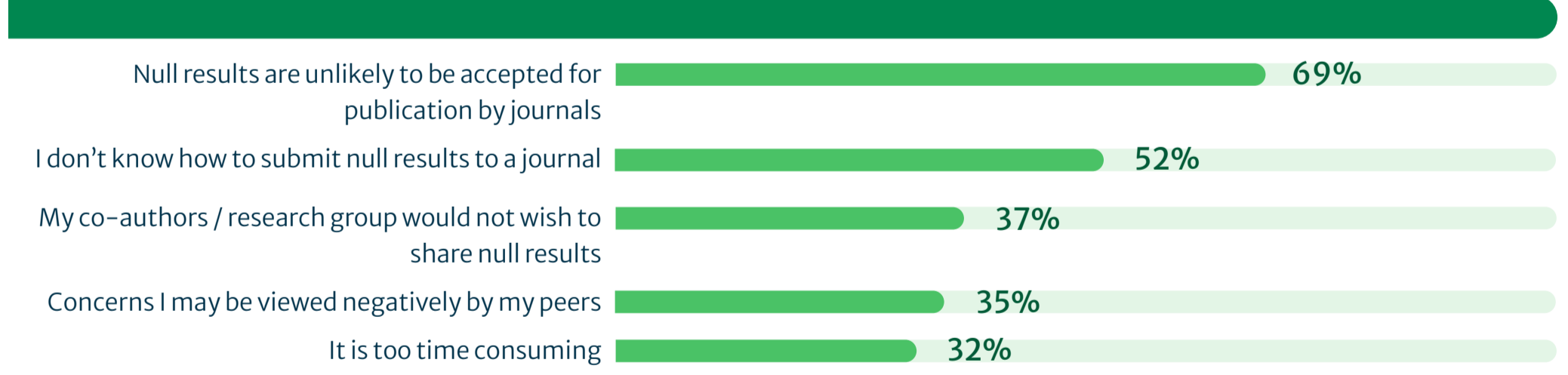
Amongst those who had published null results in journals



The top 5 benefits experienced by those who have published null results in a journal



The 5 main concerns about publishing null results



Recommendations based on the survey data

- Clearly communicate journals' null results policies and support authors in submitting**
- Educate researchers about the importance of sharing null results**
- Reform research assessment so all rigorous research, regardless of outcome, is recognised**

Read the white paper

Data taken from *The state of null results: Insights from 11,000 researchers on negative or inconclusive results white paper.*

stories.springernature.com/the-state-of-null-results-white-paper